



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:
Applicant: RISSIN, Joseph B., et al.
Serial No.: 09/800,828
Filed: March 8, 2001
For: EAR NUT WITH HANDLES
Examiner: BRITTAIN, James R.
Art Unit: 3677

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 18, 2004

Honorable Sir:

LETTER

In response to the November 24, 2003 Office Action, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10, and 14.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Amended) A jewelry clasp for gripping the post of a piece of jewelry, said jewelry clasp comprising:

a base plate having a first surface for facing toward said piece of jewelry and a second surface for facing away from said piece of jewelry, an opening in said base plate for passing a jewelry post therethrough;

a pair of spring fingers extending outwardly from said base plate second surface, said fingers extending on opposed ends of said base plate, to a position where a portion of the spring fingers can each frictionally engage a side surface of a jewelry post when said post is passed through said opening; and

a pair of user gripping tabs, said tabs having a first end attached to said base plate, and a second end capable of being gripped, said second end extending outwardly from said base plate second surface, said second end being substantially in-line with said first end, said tabs extending on opposed ends of said base plate, offset substantially ninety degrees from said fingers, to a position where said tabs can be gripped for removal of said jewelry clasp from said post, said tabs having an inward bend to facilitate gripping and removal or replacement of said clasp on the post;

wherein:

the jewelry clasp includes at least one earring stabilizer extending radially outward from said base plate; and,

The jewelry clasp of claim 10 in which said earring stabilizer includes first and second generally parallel-extension bars and a stabilizing member connected to at least one of said first and second extension bars.

12. (Previously amended) The jewelry clasp of claim 11 in which said first and second extension bars project radially outward from said base plate at a position adjacent one of said gripping tabs.

13. (Previously amended) The jewelry clasp of claim 11 in which said first and second extension bars are secured to said base plate by solder or stamped as one piece.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Thrice Amended) A clasp for gripping a post extending from the back of a piece of jewelry, said clasp comprising:

a generally circular base plate having a first surface for facing toward said piece of jewelry and a second surface for facing away from said piece of jewelry, a centrally located opening in said base plate for passing a jewelry post therethrough;

a pair of opposed spring fingers on said second surface, extending from opposed ends of said second surface, positioned to frictionally engage opposed sides of a jewelry post when said post is passed through said opening; and

a pair of opposed user gripping tabs extending from opposed ends of said second surface, said tabs extending outwardly from said second surface, and said tabs being offset by substantially ninety degrees from said fingers, to a position where said tabs can be gripped by a user for removal of said clasp from said jewelry post, said tabs being longer than said spring fingers;

wherein:

the jewelry clasp includes at least one earring stabilizer extending radially outwardly from

said base plate; and,

~~The jewelry clasp of claim 14 in which~~ said earring stabilizer includes first and second ~~generally parallel~~ extension bars and a stabilizing member connected to at least one of said first and second extension bars.

16. (Previously amended) The jewelry clasp of claim 15 in which said first and second extension bars of said earring stabilizers project radially outward from said base plate at a position adjacent to one of said gripping tabs.

17. (Previously amended) The jewelry clasp of claim 15 in which said first and second exterior bars of said earring stabilizers are secured to said base plate by solder.